

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A computer-implemented method, comprising:
configuring a policy, said policy including a policy element, said policy applicable to a plurality of interface document types, wherein said policy element comprises a conformance rule which defines a standard which interface documents of said plurality of interface document types to which the policy is applicable should conform;
storing the configured policy in a tangible computer readable medium; and
comparing one of a plurality of interface documents of said plurality of interface document types to said policy.
2. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising conforming said interface document to said policy.
3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said configuring a policy comprises:
creating a policy in a computing system;
defining a policy element;
providing configuration parameters for said policy element; and
providing a policy definition, said definition including one or more policy elements.

4. (currently amended): The method of claim 3, further comprising resolving conflicts between policy elements in a selected policy.

5. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein comparing said plurality of interface documents of said plurality of interface document types to said policy comprises initiating an automated compliance test on said interface document.

6. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein comparing said plurality of interface documents of said plurality of interface document types to said policy comprises:

uploading an interface document;

performing a compliance test on said interface document; and

reporting said results of said compliance test.

7. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein said conforming said interface document to said policy comprises:

raising an exception request to a policy element;

if a policy element is not approved to be an exception, correcting said interface document; and

if a policy element is approved to be an exception, granting conformance to said policy element.

8. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein said conforming said interface document to said policy comprises initiating a compliance test such that a pass or not pass result is determined, based on the information in said interface document and said policy element.

9. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein said conforming said interface document to said policy comprises:

in the case where an interface document does not provide enough information to determine whether a said policy element is to be passed, checking whether said policy element provides a guided interaction process; and

if said policy element does provide a guided interaction process, determining whether to pass the conformance of said interface document to said policy element in accordance with a response to said guided interaction process.

10. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein said conforming said interface document to said policy comprises reviewing said interface document for conformance to said policy element, by a user.

11. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein said conforming said interface document to said policy comprises determining conformance based on a process selected from the group consisting of using information in said interface document and said policy element, using a guided interaction process, and reviewing said interface document for conformance to said policy element by a user.

12. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein said conforming said interface document to said policy comprises determining conformance based on information in said interface document and said policy element, and based on a guided interaction process.

13. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
initiating an exception request to said policy;
distributing said exception request to a relevant user;
performing an analysis on the impact of said exception request; and
resolving said exception request by granting or not granting an approval.

14. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing a user with a list of potentially reusable interfaces components;
analyzing potential reusability of interfaces components, based on a provided list and project information; and
determining which interfaces components may be re-used.

15. (currently amended): The method of claim 14, further comprising executing a cost analysis associated with selected reusable interfaces components.

16. (currently amended): The method of claim 14, further comprising alerting relevant users of the assignment of reusability guidelines to an interface document.

17. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
when a change in a policy element is made, testing whether said policy element change
conflicts with other policy elements that are defined in a policy; and if there is a conflict,
generating a conflict alert.

18. (currently amended): The method of claim 17, further comprising analyzing the
impact of solving said conflict.

19. (currently amended): The method of claim 17, further comprising:
generating an impact analysis report comprising a description of an impact of a conflict
on an interface document.

20. (currently amended): The method of claim 17, further comprising, after a conflict
has been resolved, applying said policy element change to a policy.

21. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
accepting an escalation indication from a user;
notifying relevant users about an escalation process being initiated for an interface
document; and
receiving a response from a relevant user escalating said response.

22. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
selecting a policy to be assigned; and
assigning said policy to an interface document.

23. (currently amended): The method of claim 22, further comprising, where a plurality of policies are assigned to an interface document, determining if conflicts occur between policy elements of said plurality of policies.

24. (currently amended): The method of claim 22, further comprising:
alerting relevant users of said policy assignment; and
negotiating said policy assignment between said relevant users.

25. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
defining global cost parameters for a set of interface documents;
defining alerting rules associated with said global cost parameters;
recording information relating to development of said interface documents;
analyzing recorded information according to said global cost parameters; and
generating alerts to relevant users, according to said information analysis.

26. (currently amended): A computer-implemented method, comprising:

associating in a computer system a policy to a plurality of interface document types, said policy including a conformance rule which defines a standard which interface documents of said plurality of interface document types to which the policy is applicable should conform;

uploading interface documents created in one of said plurality of interface document types; and

analyzing said interface documents according to said policy; and
storing a result of the analyzing in a tangible computer readable medium.

27. (currently amended): The method of claim 26, further comprising conforming said interface documents to said policy.

28. (currently amended): The method of claim 26, further comprising assigning a set of policies to a project, said set of policies being selected from a plurality of sets of policies.

29. (currently amended): The method of claim 26, further comprising alerting a relevant user about the conformance status of an interface document to said policy.

30. (original): The method of claim 27, wherein said conforming comprises an automated conformance procedure.

31. (original): The method of claim 27, wherein said conforming comprises a guided conformance procedure.

32. (currently amended): The method of claim 26, further comprising managing exception requests for said policy.

33. (original): The method of claim 32, wherein said managing comprises:
initiating an exception request to said policy;
distributing said exception request to a relevant user;
performing an analysis on the impact of said exception request; and
resolving the exception request by granting or not granting an approval.

34. (currently amended): The method of claim 26, further comprising initiating a reusability procedure in a distributed architecture.

35. (currently amended): The method of claim 26, further comprising managing potential policy conflicts in a distributed architecture.

36. (currently amended): The method of claim 26, further comprising performing an impact analysis on a plurality of interface documents in said distributed architecture.

37. (currently amended): The method of claim 26, further comprising managing cost parameters associated with development of said interface documents.

38. (currently amended): A computer-implemented method, comprising:
creating a policy including conformance rules which define a standard which interface documents of an interface document type to which the policy is applicable should conform, the policy applicable to an interface document of a certain type, said type being one of a plurality of types, the policy to be applied to interface documents; and
storing the policy in a tangible computer readable medium.

39. (original): The method of claim 38, wherein the policy is applicable to a plurality of document types.

40. (currently amended): The method of claim 38, further comprising conforming interface documents from a plurality of interface document types.

41. (currently amended): A computer-implemented method, comprising:
assigning a set of policies to a project, said set of policies being selected from a plurality of sets of policies, each said policy including a conformance rule which defines a standard which interface documents of an interface document type to which the policy is applicable should conform;
storing the assignment in a tangible computer readable medium; and
alerting a relevant user about said assigned set of policies.

42. (currently amended): The method of claim 41, further comprising conducting a conflict resolution for said assignment of said set of policies to said project.

43. (currently amended): The method of claim 41, further comprising assigning a set of policies to a plurality of projects in a distributed environment.

44. (currently amended): The method of claim 41, further comprising assigning a set of interface documents to said project.

45. (original): The method of claim 41, wherein when an interface document associated with a project is evaluated, it is evaluated in light of policies associated with said project.

46. (currently amended): A computer-implemented method, comprising:
storing a plurality of policies in a tangible computer readable medium in a computer system, each policy including at least a set of conformance rules which define a standard which interface documents of an interface document type to which the policy is applicable should conform, each policy applicable to a plurality of interface document types;
assigning a policy to said plurality of interface document types;
storing the assignment in a tangible computer readable medium; and
conforming interface documents from said plurality of interface document types to said policy.

47. (original): The method of claim 46, wherein said conformance rules are defined by policy elements.

48. (original): The method of claim 46, wherein said interface document types are selected from the group consisting of Extensible Markup Language, Simple Object Access Protocol, and Web Services Description Language (WSDL) documents.

49. (currently amended): A computer system comprising:
a controller to:
configure a policy, said policy including a policy element, said policy applicable to a plurality of interface document types in a distributed architecture, wherein said policy element comprises a conformance rule which defines a standard which interface documents of said plurality of interface document types to which the policy is applicable should conform; and
compare an interface document of said plurality of interface document types to said policy;
wherein the controller comprises a processor and a tangible computer readable medium.

50. (original): The system of claim 49, wherein said controller is to conform said interface document to said policy.

51. (original): The system of claim 49, wherein said controller is to:

define a policy to a computing system;
define a policy element;
provide configuration parameters for said policy element; and
provide a policy definition, said definition including one or more policy elements.

52. (original): The system of claim 49, wherein said controller is to initiate an automated compliance test on said interface document.

53. (original): The system of claim 49, wherein said controller is to resolve conflicts between policy elements in a selected policy.

54. (original): The system of claim 49, wherein said controller is to resolve conflicts between policy elements in a plurality of policies that are assigned to an interface document.

55. (original): The system of claim 49, wherein said controller is to raise an exception request to a policy element.

56. (original): The system of claim 49, wherein said controller is to enable re-usage of interfaces components.

57. (original): The system of claim 49, wherein said controller is to generate a conflict alert.

58. (original): The system of claim 49, wherein said controller is to escalate conformance to a policy.

59. (original): The system of claim 49, wherein said controller is to assign a policy.

60. (currently amended): A computer system, comprising:
a controller to:
associate in a computer system a policy to a plurality of interface document types, said policy including a conformance rule which defines a standard which interface documents of said plurality of interface document types to which the policy is applicable should conform;
upload interface documents created in an interface document type to a computer system;
and
analyze said interface documents according to said policy;
wherein the controller comprises a processor and a tangible computer readable medium.

61. (original): The system of claim 60 wherein the controller is to assign a set of interface documents to a project.

62. (original): The system of claim 60 wherein the controller is to, when an interface document associated with a project is evaluated, evaluate the interface document in light of policies associated with said project.

63. (original): The system of claim 60, wherein said controller is to conform said interface documents to said policy.

64. (original): The system of claim 60, wherein said controller is to assign in said computer system a set of policies to a project, said set of policies being selected from a plurality of sets of policies.

65. (original): The system of claim 60, wherein said controller is to alert a relevant user about the conformance status of an interface documents to said policy.

66. (original): The system of claim 60, wherein said controller is to process exception requests.

67. (original): The system of claim 60, wherein said controller is to re-use interface components.

68. (original): The system of claim 60, wherein said controller is to manage potential policy conflicts.

69. (currently amended): A computer system, comprising:
a controller to:

create a policy including conformance rules which define a standard which interface documents of an interface document type to which the policy is applicable should conform, the policy applicable to a document of a certain type, said type being one of a plurality of types, the policy being capable of enabling integration of interface documents in a distributed architecture; wherein the controller comprises a processor and a tangible computer readable medium.

70. (original): The system of claim 69, wherein said controller is to conform interface documents from a plurality of interface document types.

71. (currently amended): A computer system, comprising:
a controller to:
assign a set of policies to a project, said set of policies being selected from a plurality of sets of policies, each said policy including a conformance rule which defines a standard which interface documents of an interface document type to which the policy is applicable should conform; and
alert a relevant user about said assigned set of policies;
wherein the controller comprises a processor and a tangible computer readable medium.

72. (original): The system of claim 71, wherein said controller is to conduct a conflict resolution for said assignment of said set of policies to said project.

73. (currently amended): A computer system, comprising:

a controller to:

store a plurality of policies in a computer system, each policy including at least a set of conformance rules which define a standard which interface documents of an interface document type to which the policy is applicable should conform, each policy applicable to a plurality of interface document types; and

assign a policy to said plurality of interface document types;

wherein the controller comprises a processor and a tangible computer readable medium.

74. (original): The system of claim 73, wherein said controller is to conform interface documents from said plurality of interface document types to said policy.

75. (original): The system of claim 73, wherein said controller is to define conformance rules according to policy elements.

76. (currently amended): A computer system, comprising:

a user interface engine;

a policy element configuration engine for configuring a policy element to be included in a policy, said policy element comprising a conformance rule which defines a standard which interface documents of an interface document type to which the policy is applicable should conform;

a project definition engine;

a dictionaries and vocabularies matching engine; and

an application programming interface;

wherein the computer system comprises a processor and a tangible computer readable medium.

77. (currently amended): The computer system of claim 76, further comprising a dashboard engine.

78. (currently amended): A data repository, comprising:

a policy element library including a policy element comprising a conformance rule which defines a standard which interface documents of an interface document type to which a policy including the policy element is applicable should conform;

a policy library; and

interface document information;

wherein the data repository comprises a processor and a tangible computer readable medium.

79. (currently amended): The data repository of claim 78, further comprising user information.

80. (new): A tangible computer readable medium storing computer instructions for enabling a computer executing the instructions to perform a method for policy management in a computer environment, the method comprising:

configuring a policy, said policy including a policy element, said policy applicable to a plurality of interface document types, wherein said policy element comprises a conformance rule which defines a standard which interface documents of said plurality of interface document types to which the policy is applicable should conform;

storing the configured policy in a tangible computer readable medium; and

comparing one of a plurality of interface documents of said plurality of interface document types to said policy.